



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/195,604	11/19/1998	NABUAKI TOMIDOKORO	0557-4524-2	4501

22850 7590 09/24/2002

OBLON SPIVAK MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT PC  
FOURTH FLOOR  
1755 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY  
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

POKRZYWA, JOSEPH R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2002

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/195,604

Applicant(s)

TOMIDOKORO ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph R. Pokrzywa

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 30-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/7/02 has been entered.

### *Response to Amendment*

2. Applicant's amendment received on 7/10/02 has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-36** are pending, with **claims 8-29** withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

### *Claim Objections*

3. **Claim 7** is objected to because of the following informalities:  
In **claim 7**, line 10, "device has detects" should read "device detects".

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. **Claims 1 through 7, and 30 through 36** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogura (European Patent Publication Number EP 0 768 582).

Regarding *claim 1*, Ogura discloses an image forming device management system including a plurality of image forming devices (copying machine PPC 1, seen in Fig. 5), a central service station for providing a maintenance service for the image forming devices (administering device 16, see Fig. 5), and a communication control unit connected to each of the image forming devices by a signal line (communication control unit 18, seen in Fig. 5), the communication control unit (18) connecting one of the image forming devices (PPC 1) to the central service station (16) by a communication network (public line network 17, column 12, line 25 through column 13, line 12). Further, Ogura teaches that each of the image forming devices (see Fig. 20, column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) being configured to detect a transmission fault from at least one of the central service station and the communication control unit (“transmitted normally” or “reported normally?” in Figs. 21 and 22) over a predetermined period (“timer > 3 minutes” in Fig. 21 and “timer > 20 minutes” in Fig. 22) and to display a signal line separation message (“failure of automatic reporting displayed”) when the image forming device detects the transmission fault from at least one of the central service station and

the communication control unit over the predetermined period (see Figs. 21 and 22, column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42).

Regarding **claim 2**, Ogura discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that each of the image forming devices (column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) is configured to detect the transmission fault from the communication control unit over the predetermined period (“reported normally”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22) based on a response of the image forming device to a selecting of the communication control unit to the image forming device (“reporting result report received?”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22).

Regarding **claim 3**, Ogura discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that each of the image forming devices (column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) is configured to detect the transmission fault from the central service station over the predetermined period (“reporting result report received?” and “timer > 3 minutes” or “timer > 20 minutes”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22) based on a response of the image forming device to a selecting of the central service station to the image forming device (column 23, lines 3 through 23).

Regarding **claim 4**, Ogura discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that each of the image forming devices (column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) is configured to detect the transmission fault from the communication control unit over the predetermined period (“reporting result report received?” and “timer > 3 minutes” or “timer > 20 minutes”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22) based on a response of the image forming device to a polling of the communication control unit to the image forming device (column 25, lines 6 through 56).

Regarding **claim 5**, Ogura discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that each of the image forming devices (column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42)

Art Unit: 2622

includes a communication interface unit (communication interface unit 109, seen in Fig. 8) having a terminal connected to the communication control unit (see Fig. 8, column 14, lines 46 through 52), and each of the image forming devices is configured to detect the transmission fault from the communication control unit over the predetermined period (“reporting result report received?” and “timer > 3 minutes” or “timer<sup>3</sup> > 20 minutes”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22) based on a detected voltage of the terminal of the communication interface unit (column 18, lines 2 through 12).

Regarding *claim 6*, Ogura discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that each of the image forming devices (column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) includes a connection detecting circuit (communication interface unit 109 and CPU 100) having an input connected to the communication control unit (see Fig. 8), and each of the image forming devices is configured to detect the transmission fault from the communication control unit over the predetermined period (“reporting result report received?” and “timer > 3 minutes” or “timer > 20 minutes”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22) based on an output of the connection detecting circuit (column 22, line 53 through column 23, line 33).

Regarding *claim 7*, Ogura discloses an image forming device management system including a plurality of image forming devices (copying machine PPC 1, seen in Fig. 5), a central service station for providing a maintenance service for the image forming devices (administrating device 16, see Fig. 5), and a communication control unit connected to each of the image forming devices by a signal line (communication control unit 18, seen in Fig. 5), the communication control unit (18) connecting one of the image forming devices (PPC 1) to the central service station (16) by a communication network (public line network 17, column 12, line

Art Unit: 2622

25 through column 13, line 12). Further, Ogura teaches that each of the image forming devices (see Fig. 20, column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) being configured to detect a transmission fault of the communication control unit (“transmitted normally” or “reported normally?” in Figs. 21 and 22) over a predetermined period (“timer > 3 minutes” in Fig. 21 and “timer > 20 minutes” in Fig. 22) and to display a signal line separation message (“failure of automatic reporting displayed”) when the image forming device detects the transmission fault from the communication control unit over the predetermined period (see Figs. 21 and 22, column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42), and wherein the display of the signal line separation message indicates a transmission fault along the signal line between the image forming device and the communication control unit (column 12, lines 1 through 24, and column 23, lines 3 through 23).

Regarding *claim 30*, Ogura discloses an image forming device management system including a plurality of means for image forming (copying machine PPC 1, seen in Fig. 5), a maintenance service means provided for the plurality of means for image forming (administering device 16, see Fig. 5), and a means for communicating and controlling, connected to each of the means for image forming by a signal line (communication control unit 18, seen in Fig. 5), the means for communicating and controlling (18) connecting one of the means for image forming (PPC 1) to the maintenance service means (16) by a communication network (public line network 17, column 12, line 25 through column 13, line 12). Further, Ogura teaches that each of the means for image forming (see Fig. 20, column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) being configured to detect a transmission fault from at least one of the maintenance service means and the means for communicating and controlling (“transmitted

Art Unit: 2622

normally” or “reported normally?” in Figs. 21 and 22) over a predetermined period (“timer > 3 minutes” in Fig. 21 and “timer > 20 minutes” in Fig. 22) and to display a signal line separation message (“failure of automatic reporting displayed”) when the means for image forming detects the transmission fault from at least one of the maintenance service means and the means for communicating and controlling over the predetermined period (see Figs. 21 and 22, column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42).

Regarding *claim 31*, Ogura discloses the system discussed above in claim 30, and further teaches that each of the means for image forming (column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) is configured to detect the transmission fault from the means for communicating and controlling over the predetermined period (“reported normally”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22) based on a response of the means for image forming to a selecting of the means for communicating and controlling to the means for image forming (“reporting result report received?”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22).

Regarding *claim 32*, Ogura discloses the system discussed above in claim 30, and further teaches that each of the means for image forming (column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) is configured to detect the transmission fault from the maintenance service means over the predetermined period (“reporting result report received?” and “timer > 3 minutes” or “timer > 20 minutes”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22) based on a response of the means for image forming to a selecting of the maintenance service means to the means for image forming (column 23, lines 3 through 23).

Regarding *claim 33*, Ogura discloses the system discussed above in claim 30, and further teaches that each of the means for image forming (column 22, line 39 through column 23, line



42) is configured to detect the transmission fault from the means for communicating and controlling over the predetermined period (“reporting result report received?” and “timer > 3 minutes” or “timer > 20 minutes”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22) based on a response of the means for image forming to a polling of the means for communicating and controlling to the means for image forming (column 25, lines 6 through 56).

Regarding *claim 34*, Ogura discloses the system discussed above in claim 30, and further teaches that each of the means for image forming (column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) includes a communication interface unit (communication interface unit 109, seen in Fig. 8) having a terminal connected to the means for communicating and controlling (see Fig. 8, column 14, lines 46 through 52), and each of the means for image forming is configured to detect the transmission fault from the means for communicating and controlling over the predetermined period (“reporting result report received?” and “timer > 3 minutes” or “timer > 20 minutes”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22) based on a detected voltage of the terminal of the communication interface unit (column 18, lines 2 through 12).

Regarding *claim 35*, Ogura discloses the system discussed above in claim 30, and further teaches that each of the means for image forming (column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) includes a connection detecting circuit (communication interface unit 109 and CPU 100) having an input connected to the means for communicating and controlling (see Fig. 8), and each of the means for image forming is configured to detect the transmission fault from the means for communicating and controlling over the predetermined period (“reporting result report received?” and “timer > 3 minutes” or “timer > 20 minutes”, seen in Figs. 21 and 22) based on an output of the connection detecting circuit (column 22, line 53 through column 23, line 33).

Regarding *claim 36*, Ogura discloses a means for image forming management including a plurality of means for image forming (copying machine PPC 1, seen in Fig. 5), a maintenance service means provided for the means for image forming (administrating device 16, see Fig. 5), and a means for communicating and controlling connected to each of the means for image forming by a signal line (communication control unit 18, seen in Fig. 5), the means for communicating and controlling (18) connecting one of the means for image forming (PPC 1) to the maintenance service means (16) by a communication network (public line network 17, column 12, line 25 through column 13, line 12). Further, Ogura teaches that each of the means for image forming (see Fig. 20, column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42) being configured to detect a transmission fault from the means for communicating and controlling (“transmitted normally” or “reported normally?” in Figs. 21 and 22) over a predetermined period (“timer > 3 minutes” in Fig. 21 and “timer > 20 minutes” in Fig. 22) and to display a signal line separation message (“failure of automatic reporting displayed”) when the means for image forming detects the transmission fault from the means for communicating and controlling over the predetermined period (see Figs. 21 and 22, column 22, line 39 through column 23, line 42).

Art Unit: 2622

***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (703) 305-0146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

*J.R.P.*

Joseph R. Pokrzywa  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2622

jrj  
September 20, 2002

*Maudeleine Nguyen*  
**MAUDELEINE NGUYEN**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**

*AU 2622*